4th May 1962]

V.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SHORTAGE OF INDUSTRIAL COKE FOR ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri M. Kalyanasundaram will call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the shortage of industrial coke for engineering industries.

I have to explain the point, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has only to state the point.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குப் போதுமான அளவு முக்கியமான 'கோக்' என்ற எரிபொருள் கிடைக்காத காரணத்தினால் என்ஜினியரிங் தொழிற்சாலைகள் பல மூடப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இதனால் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு குறைந்து போகிறது. சம்பளம் குறைந்து போகிறது. அந்தப் பற்றாக் குறையைப் போக்குவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும். போதுமான அளவு இப்போது கிடைக்காத காரணத்தினால் கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டில் அதிக விலைக்குக் கிடைப்பதனால் தொழில் நடத்துவதில் சிரமம் ஏற்படுகிறது. தென் ராஜ்யங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கப்படுவதோடு நம் ராஜ்யங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கிய கோட்டாவைப் பெறுவதோடு அதிகமாகக் கோரிப் பெறுவதற்கும் நமது அரசாங்கம் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை அறிவதற்குத்தான் நான் இந்தப் பிரேரணையை இங்கு கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன்.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, it is a fact that the recent allotment of coke for our foundries and other engineering industries has been short of the requirements. The demand for bye-product hard coke consumed by the foundaries in the State is of the order of 150 wagons per month. Against this demand, an allotment of fifty wagons of B.P. coke was fixed for the State prior to April 1961. The Coal Controller was unable to maintain even this supply after July 1961, when the allotment of bye-product coke fell to 25 wagons per month. The position picked up slightly since November 1961, with an increase in the allotment to 29 wagons per month. Even as it is, the present allotment falls considerably short of the demand and is moreover only 58 per cent of the quota (50 wagons) fixed last year.

In regard to beehive coke required for non-ferrous castings, etc., although the allotment for the State was fixed at 28 wagons per month in June 1961, the supply has seldom exceeded six to ten wagons per month.

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The Government have been keenly alive to the fact that the supply of hard coke to the State has fallen much short of the demand and have raised the issue with the Government of India and the Coal Controller repeatedly. This was taken up by the Minister for Industries with the Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel in October last, as a result of which the allotment of bye-product coke was stepped up to 29 wagons per month and beehive hard coke to 14 wagons per month. On this the Union Minister stated that as the availability of hard coke could hardly meet fifty per cent of the demand in the country, a proportionate cut had to be made in the quotas of all the consumers. The mater has also been raised repeatedly at the official level with the Coal Controller with a view to securing ad hoc allotments from time to time. The Coal Controller has also been persuaded to allot more nut coke to the State so that the demand for beehive hard coke could, to some extent, be reduced.

In addition to the steps taken by them to obtain additional allotments of hard coke for consumers in the State, the State Government have also impressed on the Government of India the need to establish a coke oven plant in Madras to secure a lasting solution to the problem of coke supplies to the foundries in the State. It is hoped that the Govenment of India would soon accede to this proposal.

IV.—ANNOUNCEMENTS—*cont.*

(3) BILLS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR CONSIDERATION.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation for the consideration in the Legislative Assembly of the following three Bills :—

(1) The Madras Iruvaram Inam Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1962);

(2) The Madras Minor Inams (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1962); and

(3) The Madras Lease-holds (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1962).

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS IRUVARAM ESTATES (ABOLITION AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1962 (L.A. BILL NO. 2 OF 1962); (2) THE MADRAS MINOR INAMS (ABOLITION AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1962) L.A. BILL NO. 3 OF 1962) AND (3, THE MADRAS LEASEHOLDS (ABOLITION AND CONVERSATION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1962 (L.A. BILL NO. 4 OF 1962).

*THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of procedure, I suggest that all these three motions may be moved together and a common discussion held inasmuch as all the three Bills are going to be considered by Joint Select Committees the members of which are the same.